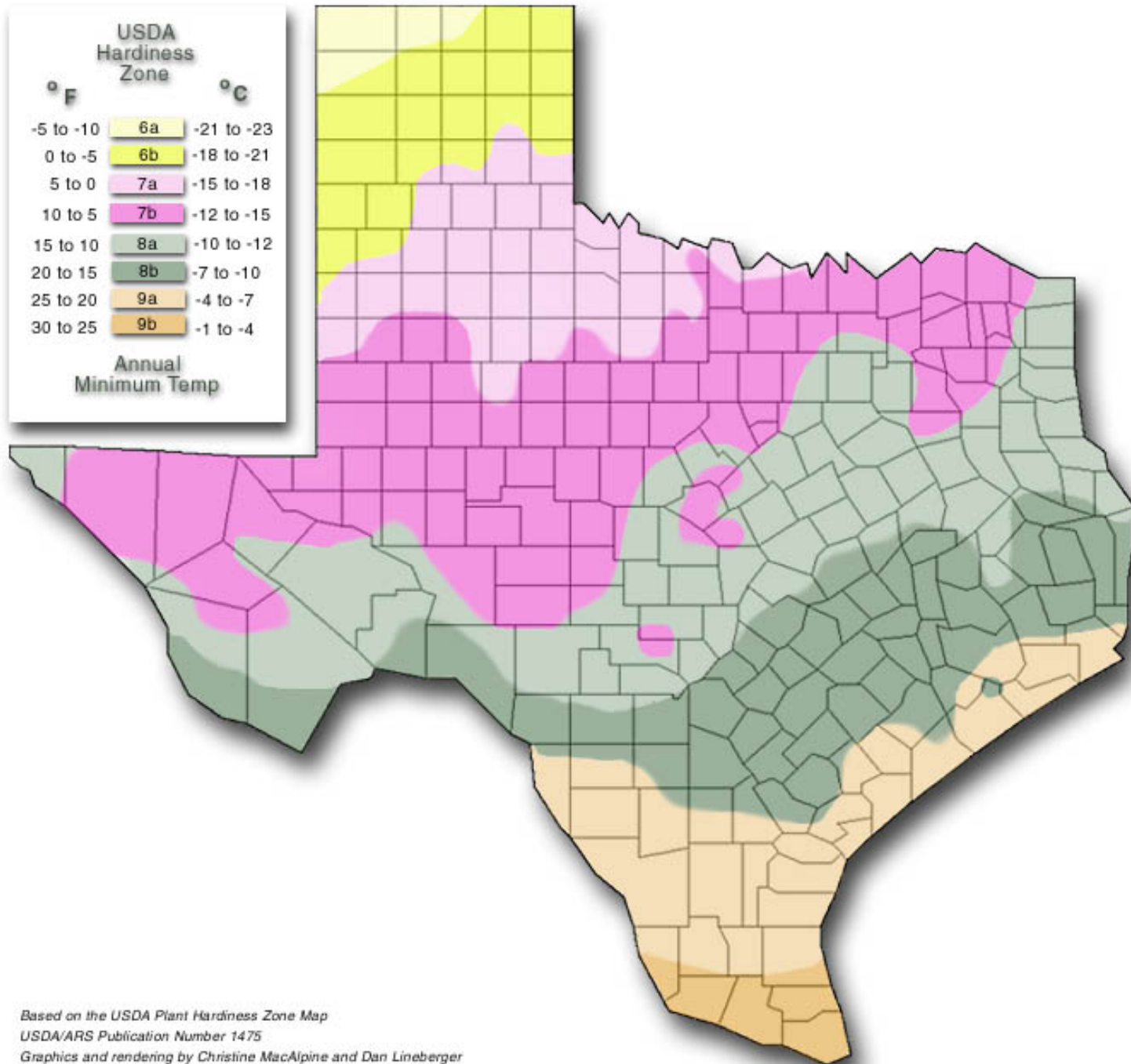


Ornamental Grasses

Dividing and Grouping Plants Together Based on Water Use Zones



- **Low water-use** –Area that features native and drought-tolerant plant varieties to be watered only as needed
- **Medium water-use** –This area usually features low to moderate water use plants which require supplemental watering once a week or less
- **High water-use** –An area that includes more lush vegetation and any turf or lawn areas which require watering more than once per week



Based on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map
 USDA/ARS Publication Number 1475
 Graphics and rendering by Christine MacAlpine and Dan Lineberger
 July, 1999

Texas Bluegrass

Poa arachnifera

- **Foliage:** Tufted, cool season grass, narrow blue-green leaves, dense seed head with tufts of silky white hairs
- **Approx. Height:** 3'
- **Approx. Width:** 1'-2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 6-11
- **Water:** Low
- Drought resistant, good groundcover mowed or unmowed



Big Bluestem

Andropogon gerardii

- **Foliage:** Bunchy, sod-forming grass with blue-green stems, arching green foliage turning bronze in the fall, bronze flower spikes shaped like a turkey foot
- **Approx. Height:** 5' -6'
- **Approx. Width:** 4' -6'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun to partial shade; well-drained soil, needs moisture
- **Hardiness Zone:** 4-8
- **Water:** Medium to High



Bushy Bluestem

Andropogon glomeratus

- **Foliage:** Clump forming, flattened blue-green leaf blades fluffy flower resembles chunks of cotton candy turn copper-orange in fall
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-6'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'-3'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; wet, moist soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-9
- **Water:** Medium to High



Little Bluestem

Schizachyrium scoparium

- **Foliage:** Slender, fine-textured, blue-green to silver, turns coppery-gold in fall, fluffy silver seed heads
- **Approx. Height:** 3'-4'
- **Approx. Width:** 1'-2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun to partial shade; well-drained
- **Hardiness Zone:** 3-9
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Attracts birds, butterflies, most wide-ranging bunchgrass in the state



Silver Bluestem

Bothriochloa saccharoides

- **Foliage:** Flat, mid-green, warm season grass, conspicuous basal cluster of leaves & stems
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-3'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun to partial shade; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 3-9
- **Water:** Low
- Flowering spikelets green to silver, seed head ripens and catches the sun light, glowing silvery, thrives in heat and humidity



Splitbeard Bluestem

Andropogon ternarius

- **Foliage:** Narrow, glaucous, blue-green leaves, turning copper, red and bronze in the fall, fluffy silver seedheads
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-3'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:**
Prefers hot, dry sites with poor soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 6-9
- **Water:** Low
- Drought-tolerant



Broomsedge

Andropogon virginicus

- **Foliage:** Bluish-green in color and have rough margins. Leaves are slightly hairy, In the fall, the leaves turn a conspicuous reddish-orange color
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-4'
- **Approx. Width:** 1'-2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; tolerant of poor soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 3-9
- **Water:** Low
- Long lived, drought tolerant



Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass

Calamagrostis acutiflora 'Karl Foerster'

- **Foliage:** Cool season grower with dark green, shiny foliage
- **Approx. Height:** 3'-5'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'-3'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:**
Full sun; moist, well-drained, fertile soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-9
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Slightest breeze sets this grass in motion, the graceful movement is a highlight for any landscape, one of the most versatile, attractive, and low maintenance ornamental grasses



Black Fountain Grass

Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Moudry'

- **Foliage:** A short bunchgrass with luxuriant, heavy, green foliage topped by vividly purple bottlebrush heads in late summer. Briefly turns cinnamon in late fall, then falls apart during winter.
- **Approx. Height:** 1.5' -2'
- **Approx. Width:** 1.5' -2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 6-9
- **Water:** Medium
- Will tolerate over watering if soil is well-drained.



Hameln's Fountain Grass

Pennisetum a. 'Hameln'

- **Foliage:** White to creamy tan flower plumes are 3"-4" long, burgundy fall color
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-3'
- **Approx. Width:** 1'-2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-9
- **Water:** Medium
- Attracts birds, needs adequate moisture to perform well



Standard Fountain Grass

Pennisetum alopecuroides

- **Foliage:** Thin blades, medium green, arching, fine-textured, starts to turn shades of yellow, yellowish green, and amber in late summer
- **Approx. Height:** 3'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:**
Full sun; moist, well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-9
- **Water:** Medium to High
- One of the most versatile, dependable, showy grasses



Eastern Gamma Grass

Tripsacum dactyloides

- **Foliage:** Warm season bunch grass, large rich green, shiny leaves
- **Approx. Height:** 2' -3'
- **Approx. Width:** 3' -4'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; moist, well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-10
- **Water:** Medium to High
- Grows large and stately, allocate plenty of room to it, host plant for bunchgrass skipper butterfly



Sideoats Grama

Bouteloua curtipendula

- **Foliage:** Gray-green, clump forming, wiry stems with small one-sided flowers, seed head turns tan and foliage becomes red or purple in fall
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-3'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:**
Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 3-9
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Larval food source for butterflies, attracts birds



Variegated Japanese Silver Grass

Miscanthus sinensis 'Variegatus'

- **Foliage:** Leaf blades variegated with green and white stripes, fades to tan after frost, tiny reddish flowers appear in tassel-like inflorescences, gradually turning into silvery plumes in fall as seeds mature
- **Approx. Height:** 4' -6'
- **Approx. Width:** 4' -6'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun to partial shade; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-9
- **Water:** Medium
- Used as a screen or accent plant



Little Bunny

Pennisetum alopecuroides

- **Foliage:** Very short bunchgrass, vivid green, topped by white heads resembling rabbits' feet
- **Approx. Height:** 1'-1.5'
- **Approx. Width:** 1'-1.5'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:**
Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-9
- **Water:** Medium
- Slow to grow out



Dwarf Maiden Grass

Miscanthus sinensis 'Adagio'

- **Foliage:** Compact grower, silver-gray, flowers emerge pink and age to white
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-2.5'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'-2.5'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 6-9
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Great for small gardens, attracts birds



Maiden Hair Grass

Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus'

- **Foliage:** A tall bunchgrass, ascending, medium-narrow green with a white midrib. Topped by red heads, fading to sandy in winter but still a robust screen or standout.
- **Approx. Height:** 4'-7'
- **Approx. Width:** 3'-6'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; moist but well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 4-9
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Seed from the parent plant most often comes true. Supplemental watering during our summer drought is advised



Indiangrass

Sorghastrum nutans

- **Foliage:** Tall warm-season grass, broad blue-green blades, large plume-like soft, golden-brown seed head, deep orange to purple fall color, somewhat metallic golden sheen
- **Approx. Height:** 3'-8'
- **Approx. Width:** 1'-2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; dry to average, well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 2-9
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Tolerates heat and humidity as well as a wide range of soil, does well in poor, dry, infertile soil



BLUESTEM NURSERY 817-478-6202

Inland Sea-Oats

Chasmanthium latifolium

- **Foliage:** Lush, topped by heavy, nodding seed heads, bamboo-like foliage turns copper bronze in fall
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-3'
- **Approx. Width:** 1'-2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Partial to full shade; well-drained
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-9
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Attracts birds and butterflies, outstanding grass for the shade



BLUESTEM NURSERY 817-478-6202

Morning Light Maiden Grass

Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'

- **Foliage:** Narrow, curved, green, small white stripe down the center gives the illusion of silver-gray foliage
- **Approx. Height:** 4' -5'
- **Approx. Width:** 4' -5'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:**
Full sun; fertile, moist, well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 6-9
- **Water:** Medium to High



Mexican Feathergrass

Nasella tenuissima

- **Foliage:** A cool-season bunchgrass, very fine-textured, forms a cloudlike, woven top in May-June
- **Approx. Height:** 1'-2'
- **Approx. Width:** 1'-2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun to partial shade; extremely well-drained soil, excessive winter root moisture a killer
- **Hardiness Zone:** 4-9
- **Water:** Low
- Best when placed in windy areas, irrigation discouraged



Curly Mesquite

Hilaria belangeri

- **Foliage:** Grayish-green leaf blades, 4"-6" tall, are covered with long, silvery, curly hairs short, narrow, and bluish-green, curing to almost white
- **Approx. Height:** 6"-12"
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 6-11
- **Water:** Low
- Makes a soft textured ground cover in sunny areas, requires very little care



Autumn Blush Muhly

Muhlenbergia capillaris

- **Foliage:** The stems and leaves are wire like and unbranched, wispy, purplish flower heads
- **Approx. Height:** 2' -3'
- **Approx. Width:** 2' -3'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun to light shade; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-10
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Showy clump forming grass



Gulf Muhly

Muhlenbergia filipes

- **Foliage:** A warm-season bunchgrass, fine-textured, mauve heads in fall fade to sandy in winter, retain structure
- **Approx. Height:** 2.5'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'-3'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil with occasional irrigation
- **Hardiness Zone:** 7-11
- **Water:** Low to Medium



Lindheimer Muhly

Muhlenbergia lindheimeri

- **Foliage:** A warm-season bunchgrass of effusive, arching, blue-green foliage, topped by a halo of feathery heads in fall
- **Approx. Height:** 2' -3'
- **Approx. Width:** 2' -3'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun to light shade; moist, heavy, clay soil, needs occasional irrigation
- **Hardiness Zone:** 7-11
- **Water:** Medium



Seep Muhly

Muhlenbergia reverchonii

- **Foliage:** Dainty, fluorescent green leaves that sometimes curl like ribbon, seed head is purplish
- **Approx. Height:** 2'-3'
- **Approx. Width:** 2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 7-10
- **Water:** Medium
- Very short clump grass, occurs naturally in rocky sites



Dwarf Pampas Grass

Cortaderia selloana pumila

- **Foliage:** Clustered leaves which look like arches, narrow and green, large, fluffy white flower heads that are held on stout stems
- **Approx. Height:** 4'-5'
- **Approx. Width:** 3'-4'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 6-10
- **Water:** Low to Medium
- Useful as a specimen along walls and in corners



Ravenna Grass

Erianthus ravennae

- **Foliage:** Very tall, gray green, dramatic flower spikes tower over foliage, orange, beige, tan, and purple fall color
- **Approx. Height:** 8'-10'
- **Approx. Width:** 3'-5'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; moist, well-drained
- **Hardiness Zone:** 5-10
- **Water:** Medium to High



Green Sprangletop

Leptochloa dubia

- **Foliage:** Long blades dullish blue-green, warm season grass, slightly rough leaves
- **Approx. Height:** 2' -3.5'
- **Approx. Width:** 1' -2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Partial shade, well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 7-11
- **Water:** Low
- Extremely drought tolerant, quick growth and easy establishment



Switchgrass

Panicum virgatum

- **Foliage:** Deep green to gray-green, turns yellow in fall
- **Approx. Height:** 4' -6'
- **Approx. Width:** 4'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:**
Full sun to partial shade; moist, well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 4-10
- **Water:** Medium to Low
- Tolerates all soils, does best in wetter soils, makes an excellent dramatic accent plant



Canada Wildrye

Elymus canadensis

- **Foliage:** Light green, bluish-green to green leaves, greenish flowers appear in terminal, arching, bristly spikes, when mature they gracefully nod and sway in the wind, foliage and spikes turn tan in fall
- **Approx. Height:** 2' -4'
- **Approx. Width:** 1' -2'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 3-8
- **Water:** Low to Medium



Zebra Grass

Miscanthus sinensis 'Zebrinus'

- **Foliage:** Variegation of golden yellow horizontal bars on dark green
- **Approx. Height:** 6'
- **Approx. Width:** 5'
- **Sun/Drainage Requirements:** Full sun; well-drained soil
- **Hardiness Zone:** 4-9
- **Water:** Low
- Drought tolerant, exotic-looking, great as an accent plant or in a dramatic grouping

